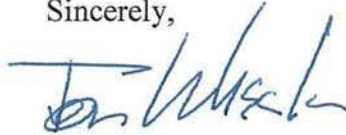


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Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Mark Takano
U.S. House of Representatives
1507 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Takano:

Thank you for your letter in support of the Commission's efforts to modernize the universal service Lifeline program. I share your desire to ensure that Lifeline continues to assist low income consumers with access to affordable communications services. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

I wholeheartedly agree that broadband has evolved to become an essential vehicle for expanding access to information, health services, educational resources, and employment opportunities. And while it is clear that broadband has become essential in today's society, affordability remains a major barrier to adoption by low-income consumers. That is why transforming Lifeline for the 21st century is key to the future of this vital program.

Earlier this month, working closely with Commissioner Clyburn, I circulated a proposed Order for my colleagues' consideration that would modernize the Commission's Lifeline program to make broadband more affordable for low-income Americans. At the same time, the proposed Order would put in place a number of key programmatic reforms designed to protect the integrity of the Lifeline program and build on the Commission's recent efforts to root out waste, fraud, and abuse in the program. The Order will be considered at the FCC's March 31 Open Meeting.

The proposed Order takes a number of the steps you recommend to address the broadband affordability gap. For example, for the first time, low income consumers could, as you suggest, apply the \$9.25 per month support to stand-alone broadband service, as well as bundled voice and data service packages. In addition, the Order would free up the Lifeline marketplace to encourage wide participation in the program by broadband providers, giving consumers competitive service options. And the proposed Order would put in place minimum service standards to ensure that eligible subscribers' benefits are directed only to quality services that are worthy of universal service funding.

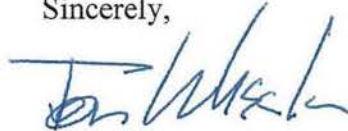
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Bennie Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
2466 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

Thank you for your letter in support of the Commission's efforts to modernize the universal service Lifeline program. I share your desire to ensure that Lifeline continues to assist low income consumers with access to affordable communications services. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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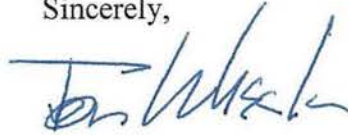
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Dina Titus
U.S. House of Representatives
401 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Titus:

Thank you for your letter in support of the Commission's efforts to modernize the universal service Lifeline program. I share your desire to ensure that Lifeline continues to assist low income consumers with access to affordable communications services. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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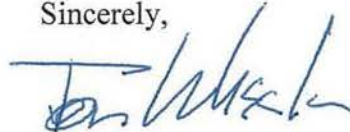
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko:

Thank you for your letter in support of the Commission's efforts to modernize the universal service Lifeline program. I share your desire to ensure that Lifeline continues to assist low income consumers with access to affordable communications services. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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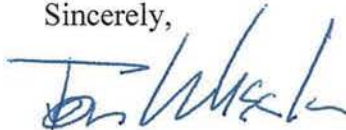
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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
U.S. House of Representatives
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Van Hollen:

Thank you for your letter in support of the Commission's efforts to modernize the universal service Lifeline program. I share your desire to ensure that Lifeline continues to assist low income consumers with access to affordable communications services. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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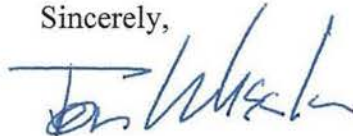
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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Marc Veasey
U.S. House of Representatives
414 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Veasey:

Thank you for your letter in support of the Commission's efforts to modernize the universal service Lifeline program. I share your desire to ensure that Lifeline continues to assist low income consumers with access to affordable communications services. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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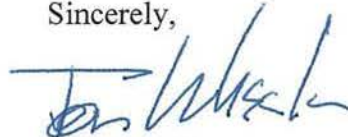
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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez
U.S. House of Representatives
2302 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Velazquez:

Thank you for your letter in support of the Commission's efforts to modernize the universal service Lifeline program. I share your desire to ensure that Lifeline continues to assist low income consumers with access to affordable communications services. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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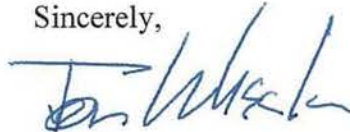
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman
U.S. House of Representatives
126 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Coleman:

Thank you for your letter in support of the Commission's efforts to modernize the universal service Lifeline program. I share your desire to ensure that Lifeline continues to assist low income consumers with access to affordable communications services. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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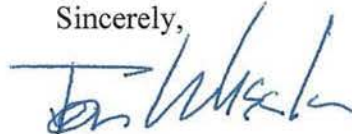
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 21, 2016

The Honorable John Yarmuth
U.S. House of Representatives
403 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Yarmuth:

Thank you for your letter in support of the Commission's efforts to modernize the universal service Lifeline program. I share your desire to ensure that Lifeline continues to assist low income consumers with access to affordable communications services. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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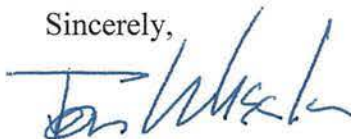
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